



Certification and approval of annual accounts for 2019-20

Regulation 15(1) of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended) requires that Responsible Financial Officer of Rhuddlan Town Council sign and date the statement of accounts, and certify that it properly presents Rhuddlan Town Council 2019 – 20 financial position at the end of the year and the Council's income and expenditure for the year]. The Regulations required that this be completed by 30 June 2020.

The Responsible Financial Officer signed and certified the accounts on 11th May 2020.

Publication of audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020

Regulation 15(5) of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended) requires that by 30 September 2020, Rhuddlan Town Council publish its accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 together with any certificate, opinion, or report issued, given or made by the Auditor General.

The accounting statements in the form of an annual return have been published on the Council's website. However, the accounts are published before the conclusion of the audit. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the Auditor General has not yet issued an audit opinion.

Accounting statements 2019-20 for:

Name of body: Rhuddlan Town Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance for compilers
	31 March 2019 (£)	31 March 2020 (£)	

Please round all figures to nearest £.
Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or nil balances.
All figures must agree to the underlying financial records for the relevant year.

Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments

1. Balances brought forward	75,132	67,482	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	84,370	92,150	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3. (+) Total other receipts	24,772	9,603	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4. (-) Staff costs	18,448	20,997	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and related expenses eg. termination costs.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6. (-) Total other payments	98,344	81,897	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	67,482	66,341	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6).

Statement of balances

8. (+) Debtors and stock balances	0	0	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body and stock balances held at the year-end.
9. (+) Total cash and investments	67,482	66,341	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.
10. (-) Creditors	0	0	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.
11. (=) Balances carried forward	67,482	66,341	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	192,350	208,586	The asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.
13. Total borrowing	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

14. Trust funds disclosure note	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	The body acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing (a) trust fund(s)/assets (readers should note that the figures above do not include any trust transactions).
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Annual Governance Statement (Part 1)

We acknowledge as the members of the Council/Board/Committee, our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2020, that:

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Council/Board/Committee:	PG Ref	
	Yes	No*			
1. We have put in place arrangements for: - effective financial management during the year; and - the preparation and approval of the accounting statements.	☒	☐	Properly sets its budget and manages its money and prepares and approves its accounting statements as prescribed by law.	6, 12	
2. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.	☒	☐	Made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	6, 7	
3. We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Council/Board/Committee to conduct its business or on its finances.	☒	☐	Has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.	6	
4. We have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.	☒	☐	Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect the body's accounts as set out in the notice of audit.	6, 23	
5. We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Council/Board/Committee and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	☒	☐	Considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the body and has dealt with them properly.	6, 9	
6. We have maintained an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems throughout the year and have received a report from the internal auditor.	☒	☐	Arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the body.	6, 8	
7. We have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the Council/Board/Committee and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements.	☒	☐	Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	6	
8. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.	☒	☐	Considered and taken appropriate action to address issues/weaknesses brought to its attention by both the internal and external auditors.	6, 8, 23	
9. Trust funds – in our capacity as trustee, we have: discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s) including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	☐	☐	☒ N/A	Has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.	3, 6

* Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'no' response given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

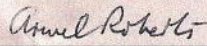
Annual Governance Statement (Part 2)

	Agreed?			'YES' means that the Council/Board/ Committee:
	Yes	No*	N/A	
1. We have prepared and approved minutes for all meetings held by the Council (including its committees) that accurately record the business transacted and the decisions made by the Council or committee.	☒	☐	☐	Has kept and approved minutes in accordance with Schedule 12, Paragraph 41 of the Local Government Act 1972.
2. We have ensured that the Council's minutes (including those of its committees) are available for public inspection and have been published electronically.	☒	☐	☐	Has made arrangements for the minutes to be available for public inspection in accordance with section 228 of the Local Government Act 1972 and has published the minutes on its website in accordance with section 55 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.

* Please delete as appropriate.

Council/Board/Committee approval and certification

The Council/Board/Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 and for the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement.

Certification by the RFO I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return presents fairly the financial position of the Council/Board/ Committee, and its income and expenditure, or properly presents receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2020.	Approval by the Council/Board/Committee I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council/Board/Committee under minute reference:
RFO signature: 	Minute ref: 8b 11th May 2020
Name: SIÂN MAI JONES	Chair of meeting signature: 
Date: 14 May 2020	Name: ARWEN ROBERTS
	Date: 14 May 2020

Council/Board/Committee re-approval and re-certification (only required if the Annual Return has been amended at audit)

Certification by the RFO I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return presents fairly the financial position of the Council/Board/ Committee, and its income and expenditure, or properly presents receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2020.	Approval by the Council/Board/Committee I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council/Board/Committee under minute reference:
RFO signature:	Minute ref:
Name:	Chair of meeting signature:
Date:	Name:
	Date:

Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report

The external auditor conducts the audit on behalf of, and in accordance with, guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales. On the basis of their review of the Annual Return and supporting information, they report whether any matters that come to their attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

We certify that we have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2020 of:

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External auditor's report

[Except for the matters reported below]* On the basis of our review, in our opinion, the information contained in the Annual Return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

[[These matters along with]* Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the body and our recommendations for improvement are included in our report to the body dated _____.]

Other matters and recommendations

On the basis of our review, we draw the body's attention to the following matters and recommendations which do not affect our audit opinion but should be addressed by the body.

(Continue on a separate sheet if required.)

External auditor's name:

External auditor's signature:

Date:

For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

* Delete as appropriate.

Annual internal audit report to:

Name of body: **DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Council/Board/Committee's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, has included carrying out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ending 31 March 2020.

The internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Council/Board/Committee's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the following control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Council/Board/Committee.

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
1. Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.	☒	☐	☐	☐	Insert text <i>See separate report</i>
2. Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	☒	☐	☐	☐	Insert text <i>See separate report</i>
3. The body assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	☒	☐	☐	☐	Insert text <i>See separate report</i>
4. The annual precept/levy/resource demand requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.	☒	☐	☐	☐	Insert text <i>See separate report</i>
5. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	☒	☐	☐	☐	Insert text <i>See separate report</i>
6. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	☐	☐	☒	☐	Insert text
7. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with minuted approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	☒	☐	☐	☐	Insert text <i>See separate report</i>
8. Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.	☒	☐	☐	☐	Insert text <i>See separate report</i>

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
9. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	☒	☐	☐	☐	Insert text
10. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments/income and expenditure), agreed with the cashbook, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	☒	☐	☐	☐	Insert text
11. Trust funds (including charitable trusts). The Council/Board/Committee has met its responsibilities as a trustee.	☐	☐	☒	☐	Insert text

For any risk areas identified by the Council/Board/Committee (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
12. Insert risk area	☐	☐	☐	☐	Insert text
13. Insert risk area	☐	☐	☐	☐	Insert text
14. Insert risk area	☐	☐	☐	☐	Insert text

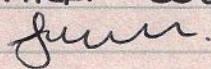
* If the response is 'no', please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

** If the response is 'not covered', please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or if coverage is not required, internal audit must explain why not.

[My detailed findings and recommendations which I draw to the attention of the Council/Board/Committee are included in my detailed report to the Council/Board/Committee dated JUNE 2020.] * Delete if no report prepared.

Internal audit confirmation

I/we confirm that as the Council's internal auditor, I/we have not been involved in a management or administrative role within the body (including preparation of the accounts) or as a member of the body during the financial years 2018-19 and 2019-20. I also confirm that there are no conflicts of interest surrounding my appointment.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit:	SARA WEBSTER
Signature of person who carried out the internal audit:	
Date:	15 JUNE 2020

Internal Audit Report 2019/20: Rhuddlan Town Council

June 2020

Background Information:

Rhuddlan Town Council agreed that Denbighshire Internal Audit Services would perform this Internal Audit review of their financial propriety and governance arrangements in accordance with the One Voice Wales/SLCC publication "Governance and accountability for local councils in Wales – A Practitioners' Guide (2011)".

Audit Opinion

Overall, we concluded that Rhuddlan Town Council has effective governance and financial controls for the financial year 2019/20.

Documented procedures and timetable are now in place following the 2018/19 audit, covering key tasks carried out by the Town Clerk. All policies are in place and are reviewed regularly and available to view on the town council's website; including Code of Conduct, Risk Assessment and Financial Regulations. The Town Council have developed terms of reference for the personnel committee and have drafted terms of reference for the website & information committee, which are due to be discussed in the July meeting. Our testing confirmed compliance with the Financial Regulations. Reviewing a sample of transactions and supporting documentation provided confirmation that there were effective controls and monitoring in place for the income, expenditure, salaries and the treatment of VAT, including the Annual Return for 2019/20.

There is a comprehensive risk register and asset register in place, which are regularly reviewed and updated. The Town Council has sufficient insurance to cover the assets identified in the asset register.

Following Government guidelines around Covid-19 and social distancing, Rhuddlan Town Council now meet virtually. Mechanisms have been set up to support communities and businesses in Rhuddlan. The Town Council does not forecast that it will face any significant impact due to the Covid-19 pandemic, therefore the risk assessment has not been updated. It is recommended that the Town Council continue to monitor the situation in terms of associated costs and risks of Covid-19.